Today's News - Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Russell continues is (rightful, we think) rant about needless destruction of housing in New Orleans. — New York region now beating Chicago as the nation's "bash-and-build" capital (oh joy). — Small cities grappling with development challenges usually reserved for big cities. — Environmentally friendly schools not just a California thing anymore. — Glancey goes gaga for Zaha's "ravishing" funicular in Innsbruck. — King revisits Golden Gate Park transformation and really, really likes what he sees. — A big win for Schaller Architekten in Riga, Latvia. Make to master plan regeneration scheme in Glasgow city center. — A counter to environmental nay-sayers: they "couldn't be more off-base." — King finds Halprin minces no words on museum plan for San Francisco's Presidio; and local politicians taking architecture seriously. — Was Glasgow's Commonwealth Games village competition "gazumped"? — 10 minutes with Libeskind, a "Cheshire cat." — Stem signs up for third term as Yale dean to continue turning "a complacent institution into a vibrant nexus of ideas." — In praise of Christopher Alexander the Great. — Davidson offers several reasons to love New York: #48: one block becoming an "architectural "wonderland" (check out all 50). — Bayley's review of the year: Nouvel's superb Musee du Quai Branly is a shaming rebuke to British Olympic mediocrity." — ASLA's Sustainable Sites Initiative: still time for your input.

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U.S. Bureaucrats Start Bulldozing Landmark New Orleans Housing: In a city pummeled by government incompetence, the department's intransigence has become surreal...HUD, with clout, cash and the best expertise, could unleash enterprise and goodwill on a citywide scale...could become a hero. By James S. Russell-Bloomberg News

The Heart of Teardown Country: The New York region now edges out Chicago as the nation's 'bash-and-build' capital, particularly in areas close to Manhattan.- New York Times

Small Cities, Big Challenges: Development typically found only in large urban areas is increasingly popping up in smaller towns and rural areas, posing problems to municipalities as they try to adapt. By Wayne Senville- PLANetizen

Green school buildings making a surge: Environmentally friendly schools can reduce energy costs ... and improve learning..."green," or environmentally friendly, school buildings aren't just a West Coast concept anymore. -- John Weekes/Dull Olsen Weekes; Burns Wald-Hopkins- eSchool News

Beyond the clouds: The views from Zaha Hadid's new [Nordpark] railway are magnificent - but her trains and stations alone are worth the trip. Jonathan Glancey rides an unexpected marvel in the Alps -- Patrik Schumacher [image] - Guardian (UK)

New Academy of Sciences rounds off Music Concourse transformation: ...the de Young and the academy echo each other in their approach to...inserting a large contemporary structure into a large historic park...places San Francisco on the frontier of architecture and sustainable design. What's taking shape is remarkable - and it will only get better with time. By John King — Renzo Piano; SWA Group [images]- San Francisco Chronicle

Schaller Architekten win bid for development of a major block in the center of Riga: ...a multifunctional financial and lifestyle centre..."New Hanza City"...Second place went to VLA...third place was received by Broadway Malyan [image]- europe-re.com

Make Architects to masterplan Speirs Locks regeneration scheme in Glasgow city centre. [image]- Building (UK)

Sunny Dazed: Optimism alone won't save the environment: A response to Gregg Easterbrook review of "Break Through: From the Death of Environmentalism to the Politics of Possibility" by Nordhaus and Shellenberger...couldn't be more off-base in their rejection of modern environmentalism's core values. By Carl Pope, Sierra Club [links]- Democracy Journal

Force of nature weighs in on Presidio plan: ...when Lawrence Halprin saw the conceptual design for Fisher's Contemporary Arts Museum of the Presidio...he didn't mince words. "The proposed design ... is absurdly inappropriate"...; Here's something we don't see often: local politicians taking architecture seriously. By John King -- Gluckman Mayner Architects; Jerry Kler Architects; Elida Doldan Schujman/Architecture Studio; Watry Design; Barbara Brown- San Francisco Chronicle

'Gazumping' jibe tarnishes exemplary competition: ...hailed as a model for Glasgow's Commonwealth Games village is at the centre of a bitter row after it emerged that the winner had "gazumped" the team with the highest-rated design with an extraordinary £30 million bid...L ighthouse and Architecture & Design Scotland have condemned the result after learning that Dawn's bid secured the win despite the Hoskins/Urban Splash £11 million bid being judged the best design. — Page & Park-BD/Building Design (UK)

A 10-minute conversation with the starchitect: Sarah Milroy chats with the creator of the ROM's Crystal and finds the discussion leaves many questions unanswered — Daniel Libeskind- Globe and Mail (Canada)

Building Respect at Yale: Robert A.M. Stern has earned wide admiration from critics and fans alike with turning a complacent institution into a vibrant nexus of ideas. By

Robin Pogrebin [slide show]- New York Times

Alexander The Great: Architect Has Long Championed The Idea That Buildings Must Serve People: Christopher Alexander...offers a way to build real, human communities. Wherever Alexander's principles go, hope goes along too.- Hartford Courant (Connecticut)

Reasons to Love New York #48. Because a Single Block in Chelsea Is Becoming an Architectural Wonderland. By Justin Davidson — High Line; Frank Gehry; Annabelle Selldorf; Shigeru Ban; Jean Nouvel [image]- New York Magazine

2007: Architecture and design: St Pancras is a real beauty but 2012 could get ugly: ...the best architecture was to be found in modest buildings, and a certain seemliness is now fashionable: showboating egos look dated...though a trend towards meretricious self-indulgence continues. By Stephen Bayley -- Richard Rogers; Norman Foster; Michael Hopkins; Frank Gehry; Eric Parry; Denton Corker Marshall; Feilden Clegg Bradley; Jean Nouvel- Guardian (UK)

Sustainable Sites Initiative Draws Enthusiastic Media Response: January 11, 2008, is the deadline for initial feedback...to create first-ever comprehensive voluntary rating system for sustainable site development of all sizes, with or without buildings.- American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Welcome to the Neighborhoods: Jones Lang LaSalle Americas
Headquarters...addresses corporate agility through space planning... -- IA Interior
Architects [images]- ArchNewsNow

- -- SANAA: New Museum, New York, NY
- -- Competition winner: Coop Himmelb(I)au: Center of Performing Arts, Zarautz, Spain
- -- The Architect's Studio: I.M. Pei Concept Sketches: Musée d'Art Moderne

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